

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 2, 3, 29 and 30.

Please enter the following amended claims:

1 (amended). A metal oxide powder except α -alumina, comprising polyhedral particles having at least 6 planes each, a number average particle size of from 0.1 to 300 μm , and a D_{90}/D_{10} ratio of 5 or less where D_{10} and D_{90} are particle sizes at 10% and 90% accumulation, respectively from the smallest particle size side in a cumulative particle size curve of the particles, and

wherein a ratio of agglomerated particle size to a primary particle size is from 1 to 6.

4 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to claim 3, wherein said ratio of an agglomerated particle size to a primary particle size is from 1 to 3.

5 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of claims 1 or 4, wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide of a metal element selected from the group consisting of the metal elements of the Groups Ib, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII of the Periodic Table, except α -alumina powder.

6 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of claims 1 or 4,

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wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide titanium.

7 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of claims 1 or 4, wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of magnesium, zirconium and iron.

8 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of claims 1 or 4, wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide of cerium.

9 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of claims 1 or 4, wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of indium and tin.

10 (amended). The metal oxide powder according to any one of claims 1 or 4, wherein said metal oxide is a simple metal oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of zinc, cadmium, gallium, germanium, niobium, tantalum, antimony, bismuth, chromium, molybdenum, manganese, cobalt, nickel and uranium.

11 (amended). A rutile type titanium oxide powder comprising polyhedral particles each having at least 8 planes, a number average particle size of from 0.1 to 300 μm , a D_{90}/D_{10} ratio of 5 or less where D_{10} and D_{90} are particle sizes at 10% and

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90% accumulation, respectively from the smallest particle size side in a cumulative particle size curve of the particles, and a ratio of agglomerated particle size to primary particle size of the particles is from 1 to 6.

28 (amended). The method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein said metal oxide powder or metal oxide precursor powder is a metal oxide powder or metal oxide precursor powder of a metal selected from the group consisting of magnesium, titanium, and iron.

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